

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a recording head unit in which a plurality of recording heads are arranged in substantially the same direction as an arranging direction of recording elements such that an overlapped region is formed between the heads;

a detector which detects a width of the overlapped region of each of said plurality of recording heads from a predetermined test chart printed using the recording head unit;

a line image determinator which determines whether or not image data corresponding to the overlapped region between the heads is a line image; and

an image data distributor which distributes image data input to each of said plurality of recording heads, in accordance with the detected width of the overlapped region between the heads;

wherein if the image data corresponding to the overlapped region between the heads is found to be a line image by the image data determinator, the image data distributor distributes the image data so that no complementary printing is performed in the overlapped region.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus  
comprising:

a recording head unit in which a plurality of recording  
heads are arranged in substantially the same direction as an  
arranging direction of recording elements such that an overlapped  
region is formed between the heads;

a detector which detects a set angle and a width of the  
overlapped region of each of said plurality of recording heads  
from a predetermined test chart printed using the recording head  
unit;

a line image determinator which determines whether or not  
image data corresponding to the overlapped region between the  
heads is a line image;

an image data distributor which distributes image data input  
to each of said plurality of recording heads, in accordance with  
the detected width of the overlapped region between the heads;  
and

a driving timing correction unit which, when driving the  
recording elements of each of said plurality of recording heads  
in accordance with the distributed image data, corrects a driving  
timing of each recording element in accordance with the detected  
set angle;

wherein if the image data corresponding to the overlapped  
region between the heads is found to be a line image by the image

25     data determinator, the image data distributor distributes the  
      image data so that no complementary printing is performed in the  
      overlapped region.

      4. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 1, further comprising a notification unit which, if the  
detected width of the overlapped region of one of said plurality  
of recording heads exceeds a predetermined allowable range,  
5     notifies a message demanding replacement or adjustment of the  
recording head.

      Claim 5 (Canceled).

      6. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 3, further comprising a notification unit which, if at  
least one of the detected set angle and the detected width of the  
overlapped region of one of said plurality of recording heads  
5     exceeds a predetermined allowable range, notifies a message  
demanding replacement or adjustment of the recording head.

      7. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein if at least one of said plurality of recording  
heads is replaced or adjusted, a predetermined test chart is  
printed, and the width of the overlapped region of each of said

5 plurality of recording heads is detected again from the printed test chart.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

9. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein if at least one of said plurality of recording heads is replaced or adjusted, a predetermined test chart is printed, and at least one of the set angle and the width of the  
5 overlapped region of each of said plurality of recording heads is detected again from the printed test chart.

Claims 10 and 11 (Canceled).

12. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of said recording head units are provided in correspondence with different color outputs.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

14. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a plurality of said recording head units are provided in correspondence with different color outputs.